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Dear Madams and Sirs,

I'm a former computer programmer and computer science teacher who is no longer able to work in the classroom or most business environments due to some modern chemicals (multiple chemical sensitivity according to the Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine). I am on the internet a lot to manage my investments in order to stretch out my savings and to not rely on government assistance (I'm neither poor nor a multi-millionaire, part of the shrinking middle). So far, so good.

Your intention to change the rules so that there is no longer net neutrality could ruin my ability to remain independent. Most places I've lived have left me with no choices of ISPs. If my ISP wants to slow down resources that I use then I will end up out of money and on the dole. And I am of an age (a baby boomer) where I am dubious about relying on any single source of data. I seek out differing opinions. It doesn't matter which side is favored by an ISP that does not treat all traffic as a common carrier (title II) must then I will be missing out on part of the robust differences of opinion that make the internet valuable.

When I was a youngster the three television channels, the local newspaper, and weak radio station signals were the whole of what was available. In the 1970s the limited internet, which I had access to through Explorer Scouts, would have taken an hour to see your page of information load had html existed (my modem at the time was 110 baud and later 300 baud). Then the world changed for the better. Great information (and some that is idiotic) is at my fingertips. I can read expert opinions and other experts who disagree within seconds of finding the links through a search engine. This gives me a wonderful degree of power over how I survive.

In my opinion, the FCC should be acting to have more open access for all Americans. This means treating the web as a common carrier. As the FCC did to the old Ma Bell, it should be breaking up monopoly situations and not allowing any of the big players to crowd out small companies. America is great when we all have the opportunity to compete on a level playing field. Common carrier is crucial for the internet. Net neutrality is crucial.

Thank you very much,

Lon Levy.